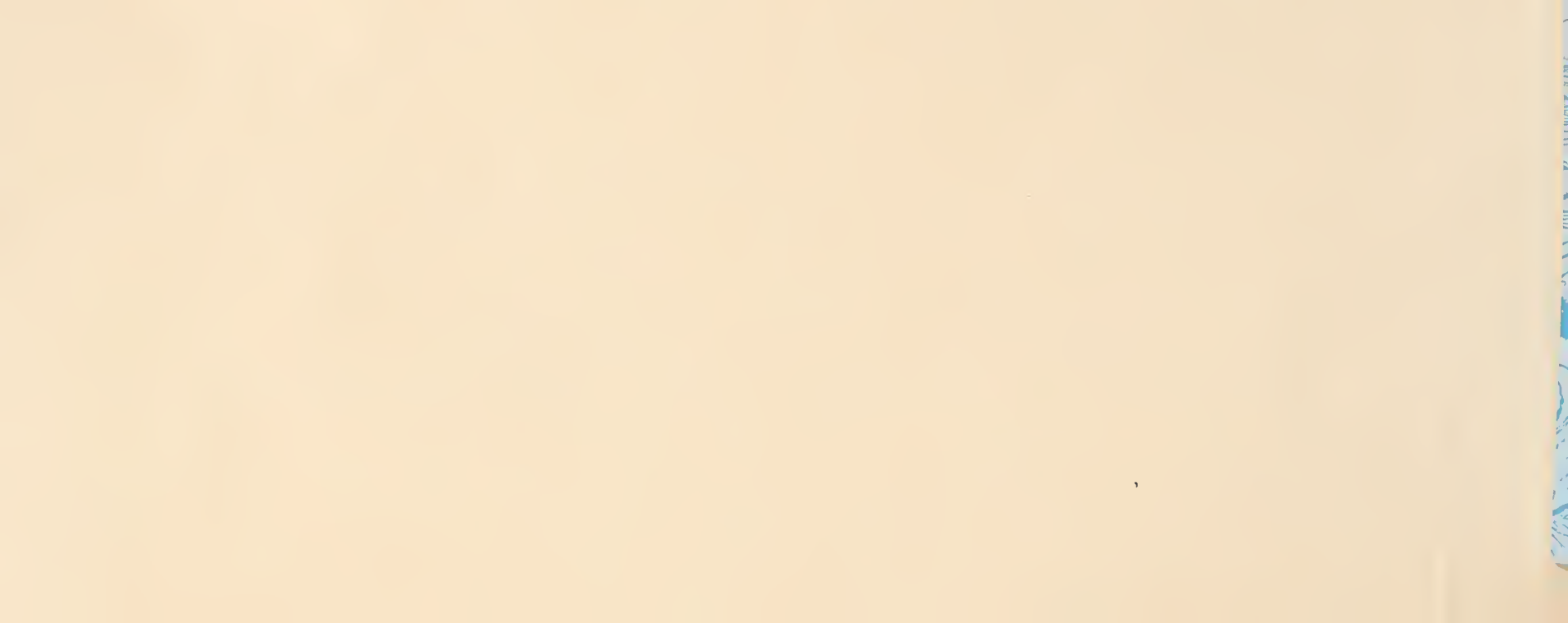


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Ag 84 Pro
Cap. 3

THE SMALL WATERSHED PROJECT

✓ *Local people start it*

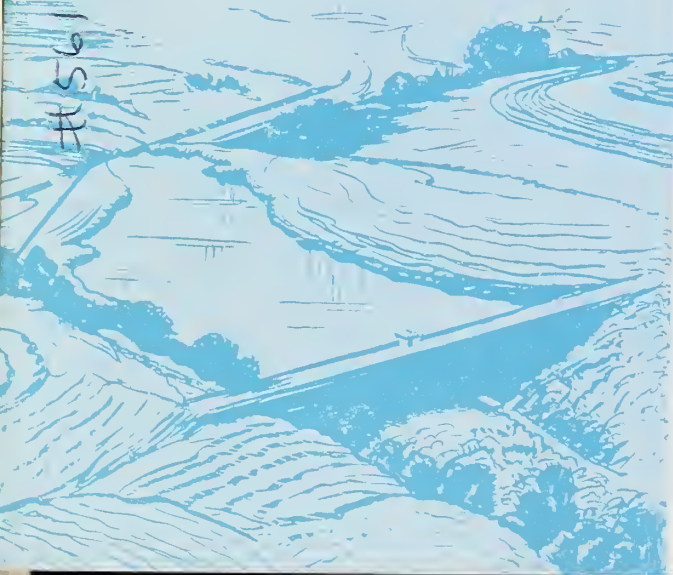
✓ *Local people make it work*

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

AUG 3 0 1963

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

PA 561 • SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



#561

THE Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 566) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to give technical and financial help to local organizations in planning and carrying out watershed projects. The watershed projects are for flood prevention, agricultural water management, recreation, municipal and industrial water supply (both present and future), and fish and wildlife development. The program is administered by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

The Application

1 *Preparing the application.* Any legally qualified local organization may submit an application. The application includes (a) size and location of the watershed, (b) description of the problem, (c) extent of damages, (d) details about the work needed, and (e) information about the local organization and source of funds. Standard application forms are available at the local SCS office. The local organization



sends the application to an agency designated by the Governor of the State and a copy to the SCS State Office.



2 Field examination. Technical specialists of the SCS, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and other interested agencies, both Federal and State, may examine the watershed.

3 *State action.* If the State agency disapproves the application it notifies the local organization. If it approves, it sends the application to the SCS State Conservationist. He sends it to Washington for review by the SCS Administrator.



4 *Planning authorization.* Meanwhile, the State agency recommends planning priorities. The SCS State Conservationist makes preliminary investigations, reconfirms the local organization's desire to go ahead with preparing a work plan, and recommends to the SCS Administrator that he authorize planning help. The State Conservationist notifies the local organization when the Administrator has done so.

The Work Plan

5 *Detailed field studies.* The SCS, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and other interested Federal and State agencies assist the local organization by making detailed field studies to determine what can be done, the cost, and the benefits. Benefits must exceed costs.



6 *Work-plan preparation.* The local organization prepares a work plan with SCS assistance. The plan describes the proposed measures, how they will be financed, and when they will be installed. The local organization and the SCS indicate their agreement by signing this watershed work plan.



7 *Work-plan approval.* If funds are available, the SCS State Conservationist can authorize operations to begin at once provided:

- a. The estimated Federal contribution to construction costs does not exceed \$250,000; and
- b. The work plan does not contain any single structure having a total capacity of more than 2,500 acre-feet.

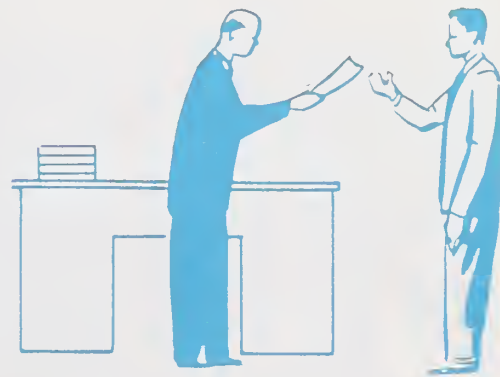
If the estimated Federal contribution to construction costs exceeds \$250,000 or if the work plan contains a single structure having a total capacity of more than 2,500 acre-feet, the procedure is:

- a. Other interested Federal agencies review the plan within 30 days.
- b. The plan is sent to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, who transmits it to the Congress.



c. Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives approve the plan before further Federal assistance is made available.

The Financing



8 *Making funds available.* The SCS Administrator allocates funds for watershed projects from money appropriated each year by Congress.

9 *Cost-sharing.* The Federal Government pays the cost of engineering services, such as surveying sites, designing structures, and inspecting work in progress. It also pays all the construction cost for flood prevention and up to 50 percent of construction costs for irrigation, drainage, recreation, and fish and wildlife development. Under certain circumstances, it will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of



The local organization pays all costs for nonagricultural water management, including costs for engineering services.

land rights and minimum basic facilities for public recreation or public fish and wildlife development. All other costs must be paid by the local organization.

10 *Land.* The local organization must obtain all land and land rights needed for a watershed project.



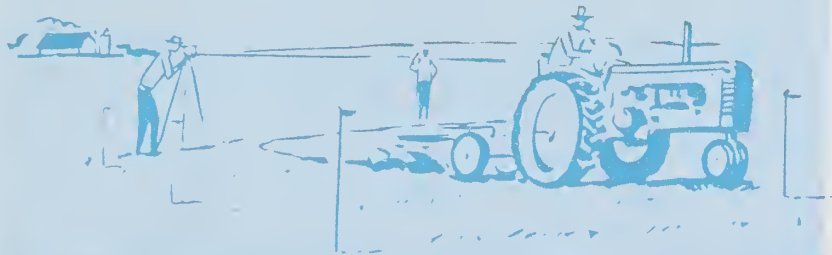
re-
ner

11 *Loans.* To help a local organization pay its share of the project cost, the Federal Government, through the Farmers Home Administration, can make loans. The loans can be made for periods of up to 50 years at the Federal long-term borrowing rate, with a limit of \$5 million for one project. The Federal Government, through the SCS, can also loan money to preserve sites for future construction, once the work plan has been approved. This money must be repaid with interest prior to construction. Also through the SCS, the Federal Government can loan money for the extra cost of developing water supply for future municipal or industrial use. Repayment of this money can be deferred up to 10 years without interest.

nd



The Operation



12 *Local responsibility.* The local organization is responsible for installation work. Needed soil and water conservation treatment must be applied before or during work on the structures. SCS and others can provide additional technical assistance to accomplish this during the time specified in the work plan.

13 *Engineering services.* Engineers make field surveys and prepare designs and specifications for construction. The local organization may employ its own engineers or request the SCS to provide them. Engineers inspect the work in progress.



14 *Project agreements.* The SCS and the local organization enter into an agreement covering each potential contract for the construction of works of improvement. This agreement is the basis for obligating Federal funds.



15 *Construction.* The local organization issues bids and lets contracts for construction. Contractors build the structures and other works of improvement.



16 *Operation and maintenance.* Once works of improvement are installed, the local organization is responsible for operation and maintenance. The organization and the SCS sign a statement to that effect.



Washington, D.C.

Issued February 1963

GPO · 1963 OF—676774

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington 25, D.C. - Price 10 cents